



Security in the Future Computing Environment

David B. Nelson, Ph.D., CISSP

Director

National Coordination Office for
Information Technology Research and Development

May 14, 2003

*IT Security and Assurance Conference and Exposition
Huntsville, AL*



Security Concerns Are Evolving

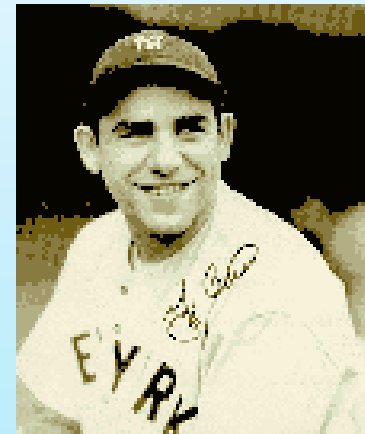
- **Classic security concerns deal more with data**
 - Confidentiality (data only available to those authorized)
 - Availability (you can get it when you want it)
 - Integrity (data hasn't been changed)
- **Additional concerns deal more with people and transactions**
 - Trust (Who you are and what you are authorized to do)
 - Non-repudiation (You can't deny doing something you did)
 - Auditability (I can check what you did to the data)
 - Reliability (The system does what I want when I want it to)
 - Privacy (Within certain limits no one should know who I am or what I do)



Looking Ahead Helps Us Prepare, However ...

“Predicting is tricky, especially about the future”

–Yogi Berra





Likely Characteristics of Future Computing Environment (1)

- **Critical to the enterprise**
 - Agent for most business
 - More robust and self-regulating (autonomic computing)
- **Widely distributed**
 - “The network is the computer” - Scott McNealy
 - Use of middleware: Grid services, Web services, collaboration tools
 - Computing on demand using remote resources
- **Ubiquitous**
 - Always available by wireless and wired connections
 - Portable identity and workspace
 - Human-centric with improved collaboration, communication, and resource discovery tools
- **Heterogeneous**
 - Many different kinds of devices with different power and characteristics
 - Alternative technologies for organization/presentation of data



Likely Characteristics of Future Computing Environment (2)

- **Extended beyond organizational boundaries**
 - Virtual organizations
 - Membership and trust issues
- **Dynamic**
 - Discovery and use of resources
 - Management and configuration issues
- **Mediated by middleware**
- **Challenging to maintain security**
 - Hard to determine what is inside vs. outside
 - Hard to determine appropriate usage/users for identity, authentication, authorization
 - Web Services will mean port 80 is used for “everything”
 - Increasing demands for privacy and anonymity
 - Need for role-based security
- **If we are very lucky, perhaps re-designed to be more intrinsically secure**

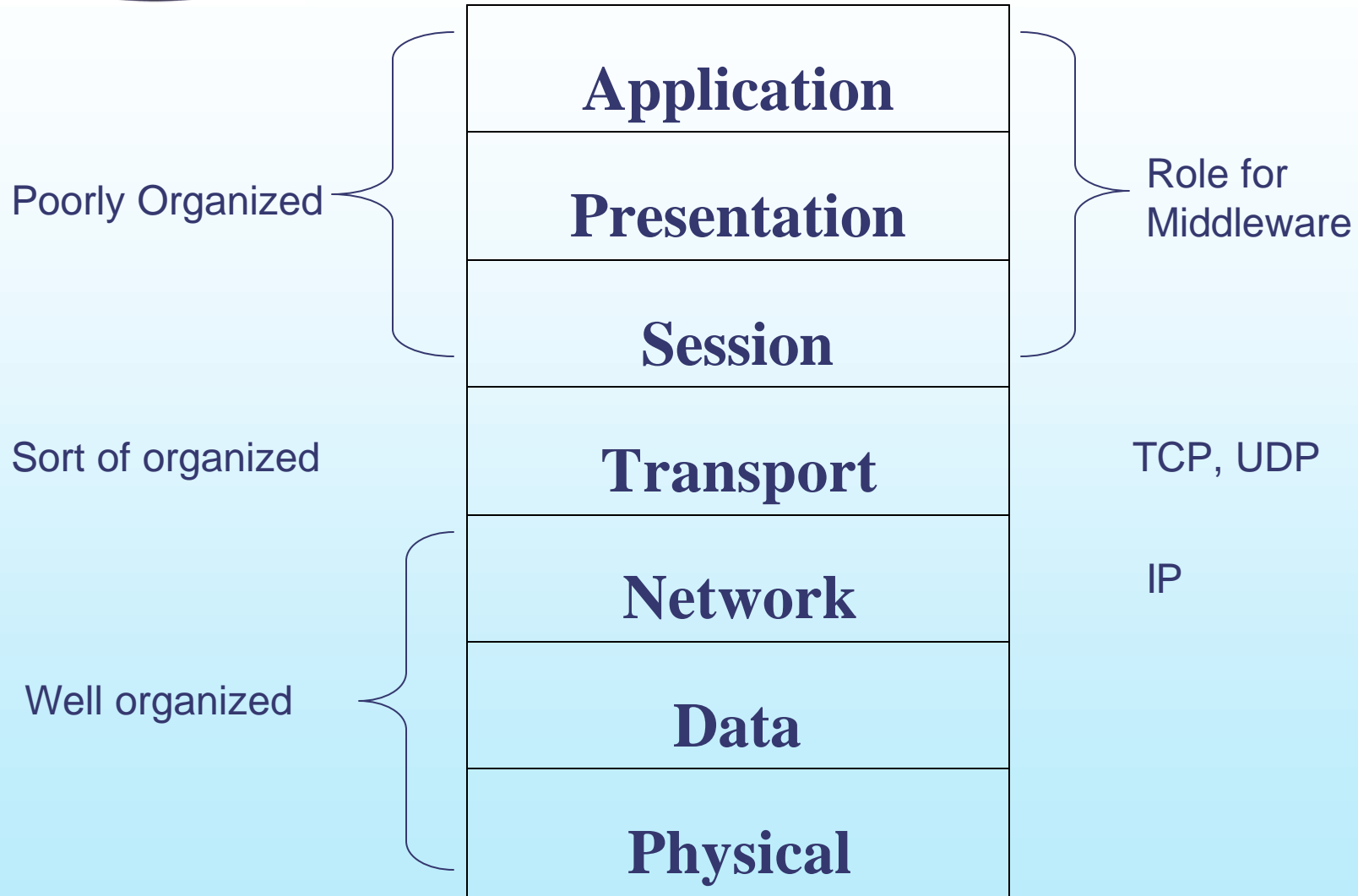


Challenges of Future Computing Environment to Security Community

- How to accommodate vision of large-scale collaborations, access to resources, eCommerce, without compromising security?
- How to accommodate changing environment within current framework of risk management?
- How to evolve security practices and technologies to keep up with future computing environment?
- How to build security into architecture of future environment, including ability to withstand, identify, and respond to attacks?
- How to say “yes” rather than “no” to users and developers while not compromising security?



Middleware Is Software That Helps Organize ISO Network Layers 5-7



ISO 7-layer Network Model



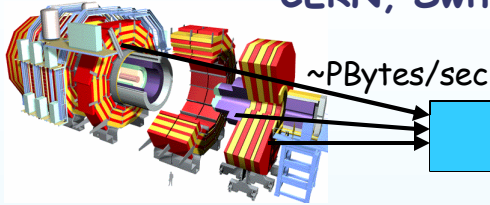
Grid Computing: Example of Distributed Computing Enabled by Middleware

- **Goal:** Enable a geographically distributed community [of thousands] to perform sophisticated, computationally intensive analyses on Petabytes (10^{15} bytes) of data
- **Organizations coordinating Grid tools and security**
 - Global Grid Forum www.ggf.org
 - Globus Project www.globus.org
- **Standards:** Open Grid Services Architecture, Open Grid Services Infrastructure (uses Web services)
- **Globus Toolkit™** centers around four key protocols
 - *Security:* Grid Security Infrastructure
 - *Resource Management:* Grid Resource Allocation Management
 - *Information Services:* Grid Resource Information Protocol
 - *Data Transfer:* Grid File Transfer Protocol (GridFTP)

- **European Data Grid (EU)**
 - DG technologies & deployment in EU
- **GriPhyN (NSF)**
 - High Energy Physics, Investigation of “Virtual Data” concept
- **Particle Physics Data Grid (DOE Science)**
 - DG applications for HENP
- **Earth System Grid (DOE Science)**
 - DG technologies, climate applications
- **Information Power Grid (NASA)**
 - DG applications

Particle Physics Data Grid

Large Hadron Collider,
CERN, Switzerland



~PBytes/sec

Online System

~100 MBytes/sec

1 TIPS is approximately 25,000
SpecInt95 equivalents

Offline Processor Farm

~20 TIPS

~100 MBytes/sec

There is a "bunch crossing" every 25 nsecs.
There are 100 "triggers" per second
Each triggered event is ~1 MByte in size

Tier 0

CERN Computer Centre



Tier 1

France Regional
Centre



Germany Regional
Centre



Italy Regional
Centre



FermiLab ~4 TIPS



...

~622 Mbits/sec
or Air Freight (deprecated)

~622 Mbits/sec

Tier 2

Caltech
~1 TIPS

Tier2 Centre
~1 TIPS

Centre
~1 TIPS

Centre
~1 TIPS

Centre
~1 TIPS

Centre
~1 TIPS

~622 Mbits/sec



Physics data cache

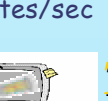
Institute
~0.25TIPS

Institute

Institute

Institute

~1 MBytes/sec



Tier 4

Physicist workstations

Physicists work on analysis "channels".

Each institute will have ~10 physicists working on one or more channels; data for these channels should be cached by the institute server

Primary ESG Servers

Mass storage,
disk cache,
and computation



Web and applications-
based access to
management, discovery,
analysis, and
visualization

NCAR: Climate
change
prediction and
data archive

LBNL/NERSC:
Climate
data archive

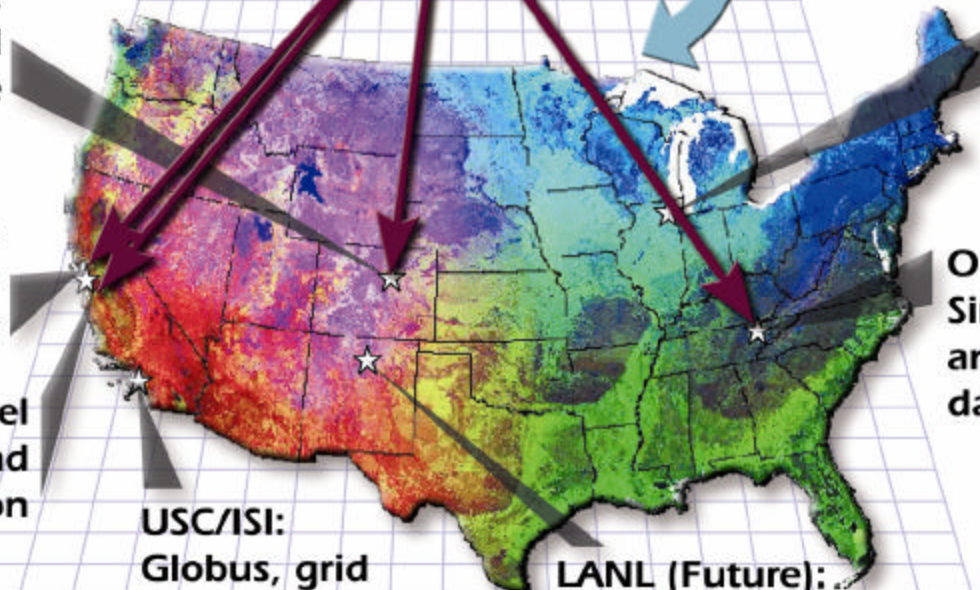
LLNL: Model
diagnostics and
inter-comparison

USC/ISI:
Globus, grid
applications, and
metadatabases

LANL (Future):
Climate and ocean
data archive

ANL:
Globus
and grid
applications

ORNL:
Simulation
and climate
data archive



- **Need to allow access to trusted sources, but how do you determine trust in a dynamic community of thousands (or more) in different organizations?**
- **Need to allow Web services on port 80 (HTTP) or port 443 (SSL, HTTPS) through the firewall**
 - Application level firewalls
- **Companies such as IBM, HP, and Microsoft offer commercial grid software and services, but typically only for Intragrids (inside organizations) where security can be managed coherently**
- **The more interesting security issue is the virtual organization or Intergrid**
 - Unsolved problem, because current solutions create Federations of Enterprises based on pair-wise trust agreements; these don't scale

- **Today Globus Toolkit uses Public Key Infrastructure for both authentication and authorization**
- **Some experts advocate using PKI only for authentication (based on a certificate authority)**
- **Use directory services for authorization (probably LDAP) with communication through Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML)**
 - Shibboleth is a reference implementation <http://shibboleth.internet2.edu>
- **SAML is a web-based language (over HTTP) that allows three kinds of messages:**
 - Attribute assertions
 - Authentication assertions
 - Authorization assertions
- **For some transactions we need to add privacy**
 - How to anonymize identity, attributes, actions, and personal data?
 - Being researched as part of the DARPA Total Information Awareness project

Why should we care about privacy?

- **History has shown that available information can be abused to persecute individuals with differing beliefs**
 - Nazi Germany
 - Stalinist Russia
 - Maoist China
 - Iraq under Hussein
- **Even in the US**
 - Exile of Nisei from coastal California in WW2
 - McCarthy anti-Communist hearings
 - CIA domestic spying (Church committee hearings of 1973)
- **Laws explicitly safeguard some information privacy**
 - Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act covers privacy of financial records
 - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) covers privacy of medical records
 - European Union Directive 95/46 covers protection of personal data

Example of Middleware: Web Services

- **Architecture and program interfaces that enable application-to-application communication**
- **Run primarily on top of http (or https) web protocols**
- **Allow aggregation of functions provided by heterogeneous software modules, including legacy apps**
- **Allow changes to underlying components without manual reprogramming**
- **Allow seamless extension of functions and services**



Web Services are Emerging Standards for eCommerce

- **XML (Extensible Markup Language) defines a universal way of representing any data; allows exchange of data between any applications regardless of operating system, language, hardware, user device**
- **SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol) defines universal Web service requests using XML messages, making process integration simple**
- **WSDL (Web Services Definition Language) specifies information needed for integration among applications**
- **UDDI (Universal Description, Discovery, and Integration) is a Web service that allows users and applications to locate other Web services**



Security in Web Services is Just Being Developed

- **HTTPS/SSL for secure point-to-point communication with known trusted parties, but**
 - no authorization, auditing, non-repudiation
 - not end-to-end, stops at HTTPS server
 - no digital signature verification through to the data base
- **WS-Security: message level security protocol**
 - persists end-to-end
 - interoperable with web services such as SOAP, SSL, Kerberos, PKI, SAML, etc.
 - <http://www-106.ibm.com/developerworks/library/ws-secmap/>
- **Managing trust issues is still a challenge**

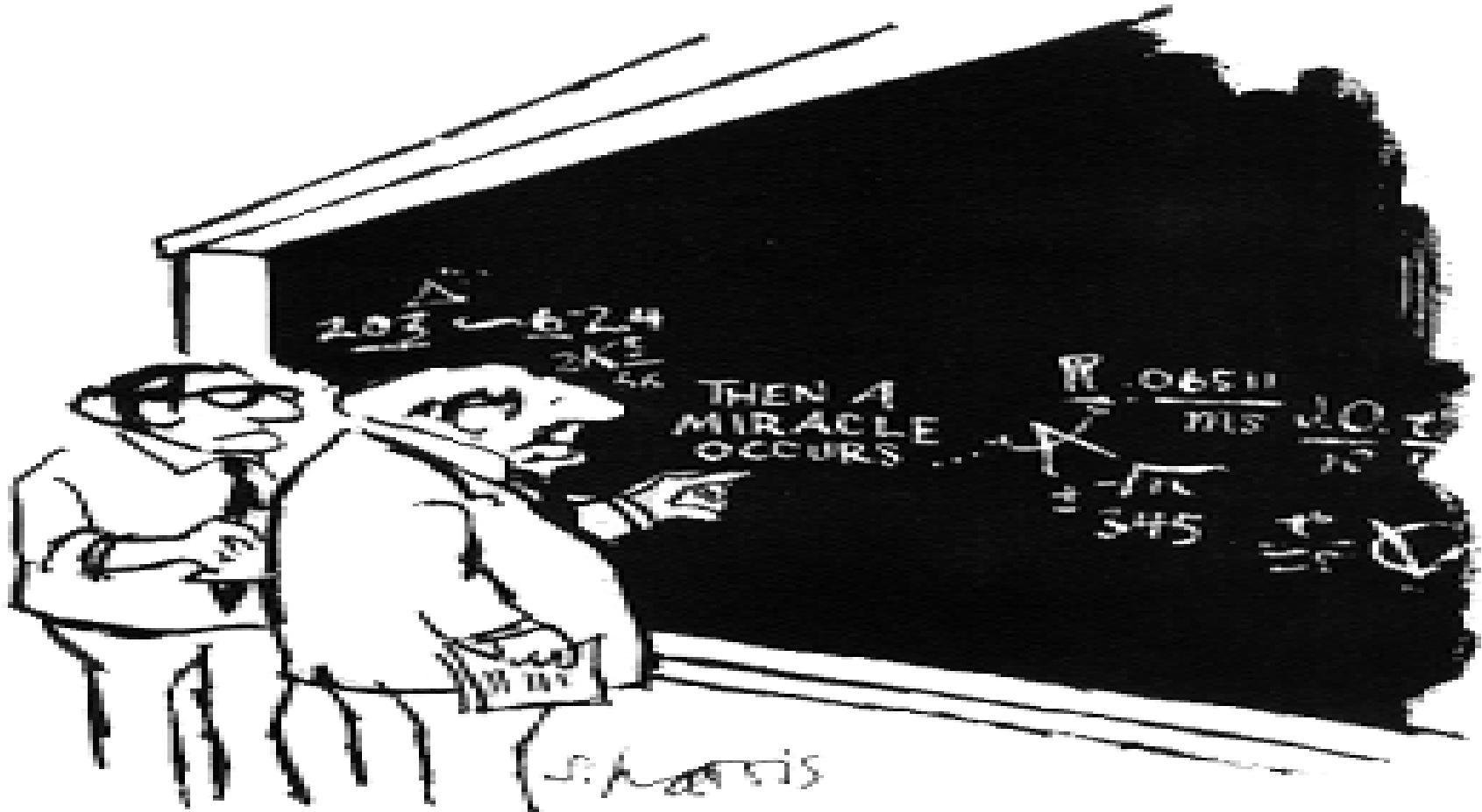
Emerging Issue of Role-Based Security

- **Role based security: Each of us assumes different roles with different security requirement. One individual may act as:**
 - Manager signing timecards or authorizing procurement
 - Researcher working on data with foreign collaborators
 - Individual buying books from Amazon.com at lunch hour
- **How to handle these different roles using common equipment (PC, network)?**
- **Alternative is separate networks and equipment for each role that requires a different levels of security or access - cumbersome and impractical**

Summary

- **Future computing environment is likely to be more enterprise-critical, distributed, and dynamic than today**
- **Maintaining security will be challenging**
- **New security inventions will likely be needed**

Then a Miracle Occurs



"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."



For Further Information

Please contact us at:

nco@itrd.gov

Or visit us on the Web:

www.itrd.gov